



Water Wisdom

Conservation Tips and Information

Issue 3

Help Your Trees Survive the Drought

Lincoln residents have done a great job conserving water and have helped the City meet its state-mandated conservation goals so far. One of the concerns many residents have is how to preserve the health of their trees while cutting back on water use. Trees enhance the beauty and value of our neighborhoods, and they are costly to replace. Trees provide benefits such as improving air and water quality, reducing soil erosion, and providing shade to help keep homes and landscapes cooler. Here are some tips on how to keep your trees in good shape during the drought:

- ♦ **Mulch, mulch, and more mulch!** Add mulch to a depth of 3 to 4 inches around the trees drip line making sure to keep mulch 4 inches away from the tree trunk. Organic mulch, like leaves and chipped wood, will break down and create nutrient-rich compost. This will help nourish the tree as well as help conserve and retain water.
- ♦ **Water mature trees deeply, slowly, and infrequently.** Trees 15 years or older are considered mature. Water around the dripline slowly until the ground is saturated to a depth of 16-18 inches. For most mature trees, one to two deep waterings monthly is adequate.
- ♦ **Young trees need up to 15 gallons of water per week.** Create a berm or water well around the young tree's drip line and fill slowly. Water two times weekly.
- ♦ **Let the soil dry between waterings.** Some trees don't do well in soil that is always wet. You can monitor soil moisture by placing a shovel, small spade, or screwdriver into the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. If the tool goes into the earth easily, the tree doesn't need water.
- ♦ **Reduce the competition.** Remove all weeds and grass within the tree's drip line.
- ♦ **More resources:** Local nurseries are a great resource and have knowledgeable staff to answer questions.

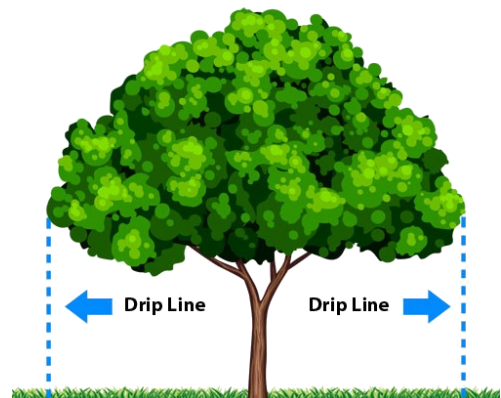
Some helpful online resources include:

Sacramento Tree Foundation: sactree.com

Save Our Water: saveourwater.com/trees

UC Davis Arboretum: arboretum.ucdavis.edu

California Native Plant Society: cnps.org



Coming Soon—Drought Update